

page 1
Wednesday, June 27, 2007
Duxbury Clipper

Over 30 abutters turned out for the BOH meeting to hear the latest on the controversial project, whose current plans include a razing of three buildings and construction of two buildings on 6.2 acres of land.

A mounded, or above

Environmental Code. TRANSPORTATION

According to the Rules and Regulations, the Board can only approve the variance if two factors are established: the proposed system is equal or better than a fully compli-

continued on page 27

Bus Service in Duxbury's Future

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN

The small blue, white and orange GATRA buses often seen around Kingston and Plymouth may soon be transporting Duxbury passengers, as Selectmen voted unanimously this week to apply for membership in GATRA.

GATRA stands for Greater Attleboro/Taunton Regional Transit Authority. GATRA representative Frank Gay said it is a "political subdivision" of the Commonwealth, organized like other transportation authorities to provide regional bus service. There are 23 member communities ranging from Franklin, Medway and Bellingham to Kingston, Plymouth and Carver.

GATRA, he said, receives state and federal funding.

Duxbury Selectmen want GATRA in town to provide a shuttle service, transporting seniors and other residents to places like the supermarkets in Kingston, the Independence Mall and Jordan Hospital. They foresee the GATRA bus traveling along Route 3A, coming down Depot Street, picking up passengers in Hall's Corner and continuing along Chestnut Street, where there is senior housing, and running back down Route 3A to shops in Kingston. The Duxbury GATRA bus could also connect with existing Plymouth-

continued on page 6

Part II: The Accident

BY MARIBETH CONWAY
STAFF REPORTER

Nestled in the Connecticut River Valley, a stone's throw from the Vermont border, Woodsville is a rural village within the town of Haverhill, New Hampshire. Woodsville has a year-round population of 1,080 and was best known as the home of America's oldest covered bridge — until the night of Mon. Feb. 9, 2004.

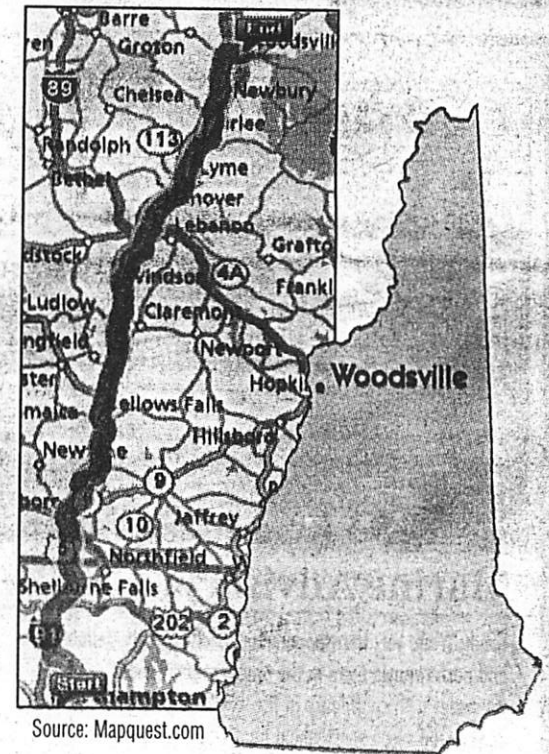
Sometime after 7 that evening, 21-year-old Maura Murray found herself in a snow bank off Wild Ammonoosuc Road in Woodsville. How and why she arrived at that point, and what happened next is the source of great mystery, conjecture and heartache.

Web Coverage

A special Maura Murray section is available on our website. Read last week's article and browse through photos, links and case files.

Wild Ammonoosuc Road, also known as Route 112, winds along the northern end of Woodsville near the town line with Bath, New Hampshire. The road is named for the nearby Wild Ammonoosuc River, which starts in the White Mountains and snakes west for about 15 miles, eventually flowing into the Connecticut River.

Little is known about Maura's trip north



after she left the UMass campus in Amherst, Mass. around 4 p.m. Presumably she drove Route 116 out of Amherst, picked up U.S. Route 91 North in South Deerfield, Mass. and headed toward New Hampshire. Considering that Maura landed on Route 112 in Woodsville, she likely took exit 17 off of Route 91 to reach Route 302.

continued on page 18

EAST COAST FENCE

SUMMER! TIME TO MEND YOUR FENCES

1-781-585-9500

KINGSTON

DUXBURY CONSTRUCTION

SEPTIC SYSTEMS
GENERAL EXCAVATION

Freeman Boynton • 934-0000

Jonathan Clarke PLUMBING & HEATING

Small Repairs ~ Appliance Installation
934-7800 CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED Lic. # 17896

EMPIRE
WINE & SPIRITS

DR. DOUGLAS WORTHMAN
Podiatrist

THE DUXBURY DELI
AT HALL'S CORNER
SOUPS • SALADS • SANDWICHES

THE
VIDEO SCENE

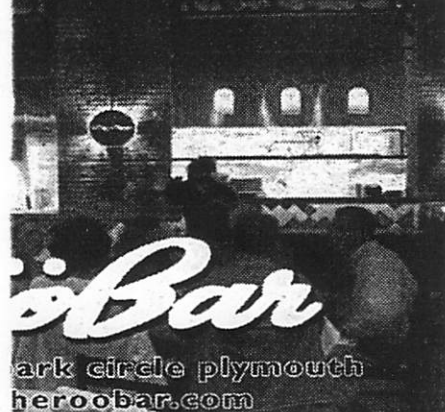
I, FIRNROHR,
& McCARTHY, P.A.

General Practice of Law
Real Estate, Criminal Defense,
Planning & Immigration

100 Saint George Street
Duxbury, Massachusetts
978-381-934-8500

EVENING MENU

Friday 5:00-6:30
for 3 Courses



Mark circle plymouth
herobar.com

ConsignOnline.com
e auction drop-off store

For You on eBay®!

Your items valued at \$50
to our store in downtown

List & sell them on eBay
to the winning bidder.

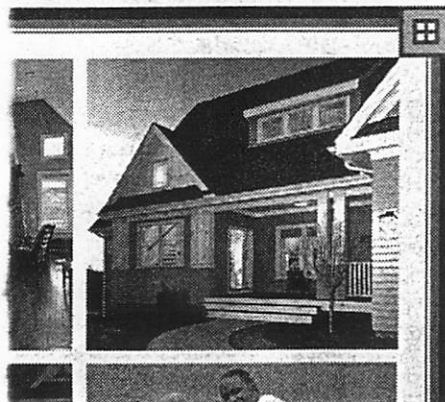
You a check.

That Simple!

Pickup
Service
Available

Duxbury, MA • 508-732-0041

10am-5pm or by appointment
Free parking & private parking in rear.



Bus Service in Town's Future

continued from page one

area GATRA buses that run to the Kingston commuter rail station, downtown Plymouth, Shops at Five/Long Pond medical building and Colony Place. It is possible the shuttle service could begin by September.

Gay said the routes, times and services GATRA provides are completely up to Duxbury.

"We can only provide services the town wants and wants to pay for," Gay said.

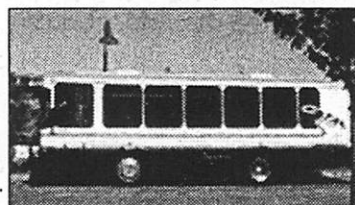
Currently, Duxbury is assessed \$93,119 by the Metropolitan Bay Transit Authority but receives no services from the MBTA. Gay said the town could take the money it is already paying the MBTA and use it instead for GATRA.

Kingston pays \$15,000 for its GATRA bus service, but that is supplemented with federal assistance, said Gay.

McDonald recommended Selectmen join GATRA because there is no joining cost and no membership fee. Once approved by the GATRA advisory board, Duxbury can then begin designing its routes. The town also gains a seat on the advisory board just by being a member. After the details are decided, GATRA will sign a contract with the town. A memo from Town Counsel Robert Troy stated that he reviewed the GATRA contract and did not find any conflicts with it and Duxbury's policies.

Gay said a consultant will complete a system-wide, federally funded assessment of GATRA routes by the end of July, which will help in planning a Duxbury's route.

Selectman Betsy Sullivan was happy to sign up for the



GATRA buses like this one may soon be serving Duxbury residents.

bus service.

"We've been begging them to do this for years," Sullivan said. "This is wonderful that it's finally here."

Years ago, previous Town Manager Rocco Longo explored bringing GATRA to town but it was not possible until 2006 legislation changed the rules to allow MBTA customers to join other transit authorities, said Gay.

According to Council on Aging Director Joanne Moore, GATRA could enhance the senior bus, "Sadie," by expanding the area the senior bus covers.

"We would change our route so it would meet up with GATRA," said Moore.

In addition to the shuttle service, a second GATRA bus could take riders to specific destinations, like Sadie does now. This could save the COA money by reducing the need for the senior bus. Moore said it costs \$30,000 annually to pay for the bus driver, gas and maintenance on the bus. She said a second vehicle arrived Monday to meet the seniors' need for medical transportation.

It costs \$1 to ride the 25-passenger bus and 50 cents for seniors and the disabled, said Gay. Riders can buy tickets or a pass or pay cash. The bus could make stops in front of residents' homes that are on its route, he added.

Duxbury Selectmen also made the following appointments during this week's meeting:

- Orie Fontaine appointed for a three-year term to the Agricultural Commission. There is one vacant seat on this commission.

- Clinton Watson reappointed for a three-year term to the Board of Health and Nancy Oates reappointed as burial agent to the Board of Health for a three-year term.

- John Madden (not the town's finance director) appointed to the Council on Aging for a two-year term and Bill Campbell appointed as an associate member for a one-year term.

- Holly Morris and Dianne Hearn reappointed for three-year terms to the Conservation Commission.

- Lynne Devney appointed as the Historical Commission representative to the Community Preservation Committee for a three-year term.

- Jessica Williams and Judith Hall reappointed for three-year terms to the Design Review Board and Michael Gray appointed for a two-year term. Also Selectmen appointed Becky Wells and Louise Nejame to one-year terms as alternates on this committee.

- Don Merry appointed and Jack Kent reappointed to three-year terms on the Duxbury Bay Management Commission. There is one vacancy on this committee.

- Sue Lawrence, Liz McCann, and Annelise Ellison appointed to one-year terms on the 2007 July 4th Committee.

- Barbara Kiley and Robert "Terry" Vose reappointed to three-year terms on the Historical Commission and James

Healthy Teeth and Gums